

Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District

NEWS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS

July 2, 2001

Cambridge Historical Commission Accepts Membership Report

The Cambridge Historical Commission voted on June 28 to accept the report of the Half Crown NCD Membership Study Committee. This report includes the following recommendations to revitalize the membership component of the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission:

- the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission will seek new membership from within and around the District;
- shared membership from another NCD Commission may be sought as a means of building communication between neighborhood conservation districts and lessening the difficulty of membership demands in small NCDs, like Half Crown.

In addition, the Historical Commission accepted the Study Committee's recommendations that a revitalized Half Crown NCD Commission work to:

- investigate the possibility of enlarging the Half Crown NCD;
- consider merging with the Marsh NCD at some point in the next 3-5 years;
- identify ways to act as an advocate for the neighborhood on broad development issues in the District;
- develop ways to maintain an active presence in the neighborhood.

Now, we need YOU!

The Half Crown NCD Commission needs YOU! The Commission is seeking at least four individuals interested in being considered for appointment to the Half Crown NCD Commission. According to the ordinance setting up NCDs, Commission members "shall by reason of experience or education have demonstrable knowledge and concern for [the] improvement, conservation and enhancement of the district." Property ownership is required for most, but not all, of the Commission's members.

If you are interested in being considered, please send a letter of interest to:

Robert Healy, City Manager,
Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue,
Cambridge 02139.

Interviews will be held over the summer. We hope to have the revitalized Commission up and running in September. Please consider participating in the important work of protecting this livable neighborhood!

Walking Tour Success

Over 30 people joined the Study Committee for a Walking Tour of the neighborhood on June 10. We learned about the sale of the portion of William Brattle's 18th-century estate which now comprises the NCD for a "half crown", about the days when Mount Auburn Street was a causeway over the salt-marshes along the river, and about the windmill that stood at the foot of Ash Street in the 17th century. Our

thanks to Lindsay Allison for providing refreshments at the end of the tour.

Issues Facing the Half Crown NCD

The Half Crown NCD faces some potentially significant issues in the near future. Property sales are on the rise in and around the NCD. It is likely that new owners will be seeking to make alterations to some properties that have not undergone alterations in many years. In addition, some of the properties in transition, both in and around the district, encompass relatively large lots with potential for additional development. One of the Half Crown NCD Commission's tasks will be to monitor these trends and consider whether expanding the district or amending its provisions may be warranted.

The Commission relies on input from residents and owners. Commission membership information and meeting dates will be sent to the district as news occurs. Whenever possible, Commission meetings will be held at an accessible location convenient to the district. Stay tuned for more info!

Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District Commission

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